

# Downtown Floodwall



## New Upcoming Project

The Downtown Norfolk Floodwall protects much of Downtown Norfolk from flooding from the adjacent Elizabeth River. The existing wall was completed in 1971 by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), but is operated and maintained by the city.

It affords the downtown area a reduced flood insurance rate by accreditation, under 44CFR 65.10, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) due to the protection that it provides.

The City of Norfolk is anticipating future sea level rise, and in an effort to mitigate the impact on the city's commercial core and retain the reduced insurance rate, an extension (both in length and height) of the existing wall to continue to protect downtown from flooding events is needed. The following is planned:

- The city and USACE are currently working together on the initial phase of the overarching Norfolk Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRМ) project—a \$1.4-billion project that includes a large-scale extension of the Downtown Norfolk Floodwall, storm surge barriers, a levee, tide gates and pump stations—to safeguard the city in light of increasing coastal storms and sea level rise.
- This phase of development is expected to last several years and is dependent on full and continuous funding by the federal Government, an uncertainty in these changing economic times.
- The city is proactively taking the initiative to design and be ready to construct a limited set of floodwall improvements that provide additional protection for the Downtown Business District and allow the city to maintain FEMA accreditation in the near-and medium-term timeframes.



## Proposed Improvements



Initial design is currently underway and depicted here you can see the proposed areas for wall raising and extension along with additional grade raising.

This project will take place over several years and will be completed in three phases.

### Modifications to existing wall

**Phase 1** The existing floodwall will be raised two to three feet. It currently runs in front of the Tazewell Apartments to Nauticus along Boush St., to Towne Point Park, crosses Waterside Drive along the World Trade Center and terminates near the Custom House.

**Phase 2** New wall sections and gates will be added that will tie into the existing wall extending it up the Boush St. median, ending at higher ground near York St. and Charlotte St. Grade elevations will be incorporated near Boush St. The current wall will also be extended to the east from the World Trade Center past Martins Lane.

### Extension of flood protection

**Phase 3** The asphalt, including curbs and sidewalks, on St. Paul's Blvd. near City Hall, will be raised by 4" in order to protect from blackflooding that could originate from lower points around the Harbor Park area. There will be no impact to vehicle or pedestrian traffic upon completion of this portion.

## 408 Permitting Process

All requests to modify any existing U.S. Army Corp of Engineer constructed public works project must go through a Section 408 Permitting process. Projects must be reviewed and approved through the Corp. We are currently in the middle of this lengthy process and will move forward with the design stage as it continues. The Corp's final determination for the project is estimated to occur in Summer of 2022.